

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 50 NEW JOBS FOR CLEVELAND COUNTY MRA Industries Invests \$4.5 in Kings Mountain

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.—Gov. Mike Easley announced today that MRA Industries of Clinton Township, MI, is expanding its business to include a new 50,000 sq. ft. facility in Cleveland County. This \$4.5 million expansion will mean 15 to 20 new jobs this year and an additional 45 to 50 within the next three years.

"This is great news for the people of Cleveland County and Kings Mountain," said Easley. "MRA and its parent Anderson-Cook Incorporated are quality companies, and we will continue to work to ensure they have an excellent business experience in the state for many years to come."

MRA Industries, a division of Anderson-Cook Incorporated, is a manufacturer of machined components for the automotive and powertrain industries, supplying to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) and their suppliers.

Their new facility will be located on a seven-acre parcel in the Cleveland County Industrial Park in Kings Mountain. Construction will commence this month with building completion expected in April 2004.

"In researching our expansion into the Carolinas, we determined that the Charlotte area offered the best combination of location, infrastructure and business climate to meet our needs," said Eric Wold, president of MRA Industries. "We are very pleased with the relationship we have formed with Cleveland County, the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, the County Commissioners, the town of Kings Mountain and the N.C. Department of Commerce."

"MRA's announcement today is coupled with news this week that for three years in a row, North Carolina has been named the number one choice for businesses climate by *Site Selection* magazine," said Senator Walter Dalton (D-Cleveland, Rutherford County). "MRA and Cleveland County will be a great partnership, which will pay dividends for the company and the community for years to come."

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